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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9767
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RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1447
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE 1478
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 5354
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0806
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0308
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RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 5377
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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN WELCOMES DPRK DECLARATION

REF: STATE 69020

¶1. Emboffs furnished reftel points announcing actions on Six-Party Talks Second Phase commitments to Hugh Borrowman, First Assistant Secretary, International Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Thomas Conner, Assistant Secretary for North East Asia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); and Adrian Morrison, Director of the Korea Section, DFAT, on June 27.

¶2. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith released a media statement later on June 27 welcoming the DPRK declaration, and noting Australia had indicated to the DPRK its readiness to resume bilateral development assistance if it made substantial progress towards abandoning its nuclear weapons. FM Smith said Australia would consult with other members of the Six-Party Talks on next steps, depending on the outcome of the next round of talks. He urged the DPRK to maintain its current "positive momentum" and to engage constructively on verification of its declaration and on the next stage of dismantlement. He cited Prime Minister Rudd's June 9 announcement of an International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament as evidence of Australia's commitment to reinvigorating the global effort against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

¶3. Text of Foreign Minister Smith's June 27 media statement follows:

Begin text:

DPRK DECLARATION OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

Australia welcomes the announcement that the DPRK has provided a declaration of its nuclear programs to China, as Chair of the Six-Party Talks.

This declaration provided for under the 13 February 2007 and 3 October 2007 Six-Party Talks agreements, represents an important step towards the eventual abandonment of the DPRK's nuclear weapons programs.

It comes after the shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities in July 2007 and substantial progress made on the disablement of those facilities, work on which is continuing.

Australia is committed to supporting the Six-Party Talks

process, and we have indicated to the DPRK our readiness to resume bilateral development assistance if it makes substantial progress towards abandoning its nuclear weapons.

We will be consulting other members of the Six-Party Talks on possible next steps, taking into account the outcome of the Six-Party meeting expected to be convened soon.

The ultimate goal of the Six-Party Talks is the DPRK's abandonment of its nuclear programs. Australia will continue to work with all parties towards this end.

Australia urges the DPRK to maintain the current positive momentum and engage constructively and cooperatively in discussions on verification of its declaration and on the next phase of the activity, in which its nuclear facilities are to be dismantled.

The Australian Government is committed to reinvigorating the global effort against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as demonstrated by the Prime Minister's recent announcement of an International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

End text.

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